



Headteacher's Letter: Friday 20 March, 2026

Upcoming Events

Mon 23 March	Year 12 UCAS Discovery Day
Wed 25 March	Year 12 STEM Outreach volunteering, Burford School Annual Dance Show, 7pm: letter
Thur 26 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Drama Trip to Inter Alia Year 10 Ski Trip to Jasper, 26 March - 3 April Annual Dance Show, 7pm: letter
Fri 27 March	Year 7 History Trip to Windsor Castle Ithappens workshops for year 10 and 12 Non-school Uniform Day (except Year 7) School Breaks Up at 3.30pm
<hr/>	
Wed 1 April	J16-18 Rowing Camp, Soustons, France, 1-7 April



Annual Parent/Carer Whole School Survey - [click here](#)

Each year, we ask our parent body to complete this questionnaire as a longitudinal study in satisfaction with the educational provision at Borlase. This year, it features questions from the updated Ofsted Parent View survey. **It will be live over the Easter break and we would love to have as many responses as possible.** It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The Friends of Borlase



Upcoming Events: Save the Date!

- Thu 23 April - Senior Concert
- Fri 8 May - Comedy Night
- Thu 25 June - Summer Concert
- Thu 9 July - 'Borlase Unplugged' Summer Festival

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Vaccination Advice From Buckinghamshire Public Health:** As you are aware, the news has been discussing the serious cases of Meningitis in Kent. As a consequence we have asked Buckinghamshire Public Health for guidance for all parents. Please read [Here](#)
- **Non-school uniform day on Friday 27.03 (except Year 7) for Romans House charity Alzheimer's Research.** Please donate through Parent Pay. Thank you.
- **The National Year of Reading Recommendation:** [Students](#) and [Adults](#)
- **Readathon Sponsored Read - Year 7 to 9:** [Letter](#)
- **The Annual Dance Show** will take place in the Theatre on 25 and 26 March. Tickets on sale now: [Letter](#)

Lost Property

Lost something? Please send your child to lost property on Wednesday lunchtime, ground floor of the Sixth Form block. We have lots of named coats, blazers, midlayers, sweatshirts, PE bags and water bottles.

Anything unclaimed will be donated to charity on 27.04.2026 due to space restrictions

Second Hand Uniform

Promoting sustainability and value for money, the second hand uniform shop is next to lost property and open at the same times as above. Students can try on the items before buying.

New! After Easter we will have a selection of ladies jackets suitable for Sixth Form, please send your Year 11 or 12 student in to try. All priced at £10. Please bring the exact money.

Request for coat hangers mainly hangers for coats and not skirts or trousers please

Year 7

- **Windsor Castle Trip** Fri 27 March: Students MUST be in full school uniform for this trip. Packed lunch (no nuts please). Waterproofs. Max £10 cash. Timings are within the school day 0840-1530.

Year 8

- **GCSE Options** - all year 8 classes have begun a series of lessons preparing them for GCSE option choices in May. This week we focussed on evaluating the range of reliable advice they are likely to receive in the coming weeks. Some key dates for this process are:-
 - **Wed 22 April - Year 8 Core Subjects Parents' Evening & Options Presentations (live in school);** *this is a normal parents' evening for core subjects only, with an additional presentation from all of the Heads of Departments to outline what their subject looks like at GCSE*
 - **Weds 29 April - Year 8 Options Parents' Evening (online);** *this is a normal parents' evening for option subjects only - please only book appointments with the subjects being considered for GCSE*
 - **Thurs 30 April - GCSE options form released to Year 8 students**
 - **Fri 8 May - deadline for Year 8 GCSE options form submission**
- **Year 8 Parents' Evenings:** [letter](#)

Year 9

- **Year 9(10) Spanish Exchange to Ávila 2026/2027:** [letter](#)
- **Year 9 Music, Garsington Opera in-school workshop (28 April) and theatre trip (15 July):** [letter](#)

Year 10

- **Year 10 Music, Garsington Opera in-school workshop (28 April) and theatre trip (15 July):** [letter](#)
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [letter](#)
- **Friday 27 March ItHappens workshop on Sextortion:** including, Financially Motivated Image Extortion, Influence of feelings, fear & shame, How to recognise a Sextortion attempt, Pressure, peer behaviours & choices, Images, AI & abusive behaviours, and How to report & remove

Centre Assessed Marks for GCSE & A Level- Important

Some subjects have NEA elements that are marked internally and then moderated by the exam boards:

GCSE - Art, Dance, Drama, DT, Music, PE, English Language spoken endorsement

A level - Art, Computing, Drama, English, Geography, History, PE, EPQ, Science practical endorsements

JCQ rules state that schools must inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as students are allowed to request a review of the marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body. Unlike written papers, reviews of marking for NEA cannot be requested in the summer after results have been issued.

If your child is taking a subject with NEA/an endorsement, please read [this letter](#) and the policy linked in it.

Year 11

- **Prom letter:** [here](#)
- **NEA Subject Specific Internal Dates 2026:** [here](#)
- **2026 Summer Exam Series Letter:** [here](#)

- **Year 11 Study Leave:** Year 11's last day in school will be Friday 8 May
- **Academic Support Sessions:** [letter](#)
- **Post Formal Practice Exams - Student Support:** [letter](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [letter](#) and [timetable](#)

Sixth Form

- **Summer 2026 Public Exams** [letter](#)
- **STEM Dinner:** [letter](#)

Year 12

- **Year 12 Parents' Evening - in person, 24 March 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Year 12 Biology Biodiversity and Conservation Field Trip, 23 June 2026:** [letter](#)
- **Easter Revision Sessions for AS Further Maths:** [Updated letter](#) providing further detail of the sessions: [letter](#)
- **Friday 27 March Ithappens workshop on Choice, Fertility & Families,** Contraceptive options, Male fertility & sperm, Pregnancy & choices (including abortion), Understanding emergency contraception, Femtech, period tracking & online misinformation, and Families of the next generation.
- **University Open Days :** Students are encouraged to begin exploring university and conservatoire options by attending open days. Click [here](#) to view a list of upcoming university open days. Students will be authorised up to three days of leave of absence during term time for this purpose, although we ask that visits are arranged on weekends or school holidays where possible. To request leave, parents or carers should email sixthformabsence@swbgs.com stating the date of absence and the name of the university being visited. Please note that while every care has been taken to provide the correct dates, students should verify arrangements from University websites before booking travel.
- **End of Year Exams :** Year 12 end of year exams will be held from Monday 27 April to Friday 8 May 2026. The assessment schedule will be issued in due course. Study leave will be granted during this period.
- **UCAS Discovery Day - Monday 23 March 2026 :** Year 12 students will attend the UCAS Discovery Day on Monday at the ExCel Centre in London, from 9:30–11:30am. Full instructions for the day have already been shared with students. Students will travel independently and are encouraged to travel with friends. Please ensure they have sufficient funds for travel and subsistence. Students are not required to return to school after the event, so please be aware of their plans, as many may choose to stay in London for lunch. All students have been provided with an emergency contact number - please check that this has been saved on their mobile phone. If your son or daughter is not attending the trip, they should attend school as normal and undertake independent study in room M8U for the day.
- **Captains and Prefects Selection, 2026/27 :** Congratulations to all students who have been selected for these leadership roles and thank you to all 180 applicants.

Year 13

- **Easter Revision Sessions:** [letter](#) and [timetable](#)
- **UCAS :** Students should keep an eye on emails for correspondence from universities about offers and any further action they require. Deadlines for replying to your UCAS offers:

Last decision received: **Reply date:**

On or before 31 March 2026 6 May 2026

On or before 13 May 2026 3 June 2026

On or before 15 July 2026 22 July 2026

Here is [UCAS guidance](#) on making the right decision, and [further information](#) about making the right decisions for confirming firm and insurance choices.

- **Important Calendar Dates**
 - **Last teaching day:** Wednesday 6 May 2026
 - **Leavers' Chapel Assembly followed by Leavers' Celebration:** Thursday 7 May 2026
 - **Year 13 Prom: Crowne Plaza, Wed 24 June 2026** - a date for your diary

This Week at Borlase



I wrote last week that Spring has sprung at Borlase with the daffodils in bloom in Cloisters and the cherry trees by the Theatre and the Sports Hall now fully blossoming. With the warm, dry weather this week, hopes are high that we will retain full use of our site very soon after being curtailed to the netball courts and other hard standing areas since late October. Thursday's sunshine led to some mild encroachment onto Colonel's Meadow to sit, chat and even play cards.



Something else which continues to blossom is the Duke of Edinburgh programme, organised by Ms Mitchell and Ms Holmes with our partners at School of Outdoors. Last weekend, 126 Year 9s were under canvas for their Bronze practice expedition, this weekend 56 Year 10s will spend two nights at Braid Wood camp site for their Silver Award practice expedition, and next weekend 52 Year 12s will be in school for their Gold Award training session. The awards capture so much of what we stand for at Borlase, encouraging participation, responsibility and service in equal measure through the activities, planning, expeditions and volunteering required to satisfy the criteria - it's wonderful to see so many students taking part.



Further afield (and not under canvas), our Year 12 French students enjoyed their trip to Montpellier last weekend. I don't know if they met their commitment to only speak French from when they boarded the bus to Heathrow but they certainly had a very good time there with Mrs Thathapudi and Mrs Walder.

Borlase musicians have continued to take part. Last week's excellent Jazz Night saw some final performances from our very talented Year 13 students, not least Kayin and Lizzie, whose saxophone solos have had us enraptured over the last years. This was followed up by the Spring Chamber Concert on Thursday night which provided a stage for experienced and first-time performers alike with wonderful solo and small group items including Mrs Ross's Cambiata boys.



Borlase Hockey has been busy trying to keep up with the tournaments let alone the results!, with all 4 of our Year 7 and 8 A Team girls and boys squads proving they belong on the big stage by qualifying for Regional Finals. The Year 7 Girls demonstrated that persistence pays off by finally toppling Headington 2-1 to claim 3rd, while our Year 8 Boys stood tall as Regional Runners-up against some significantly 'Taller' opposition. This dominance continued at the U14 South Central State School Championships, where we fielded an unprecedented five teams; the Year 9 Girls A were duly crowned Champions. The Year 9 girls B were also brilliant and achieved an amazing 3rd place. The Year 9 Boys A finished as valiant silver medallists. Not to be outshone, the Year 7 B Girls secured the District Cup, and our Year 8 B and C teams turned the U13 District Championships into a private Borlase affair by remaining unbeaten until they met in an all-Borlase final, where the B team ultimately took the title. To top it all off, our 1st XI Boys Leavers enjoyed a sun-drenched swan song at the St George's 6s, a fitting finale for a group that has given so much to Borlase hockey.



Through the week (and continuing on Monday and Tuesday), the Senior Leadership Team and I have had the pleasure of interviewing Year 11 students who have applied to our Sixth Form. While a few have conceded that they might have benefited from working a little harder, a little earlier, it is lovely to read in their applications and hear in their answers their appreciation of what the school has offered them, the strength of the relationships they have built with staff and with each other, and their commitment to making an even more positive difference in their two years of Sixth Form life.



This 'Changing of the Guard' theme was echoed with this morning's announcement of next year's Captaincy and Prefect teams. 40 Prefects and 36 House Prefects were announced, as well as 49 other positions of specific responsibility. Our enormous gratitude goes to this year's Captains, Aleeza and



Josh, and Vice Captains, Harvey, Izzy and Nina, for their incredible service and the role models they have been over the last year. Our congratulations (and anticipation of great things!) go to next year's Captains, Adam and Aleeza, and Vice Captains, Maya, Mikey and Nik, who will take up office after their Year 12 assessments after the Easter break.

Have a lovely weekend

Ed Goodall
Headteacher

HERE & NOW
ANNUAL FUND

We are indebted to the generosity of past and present members of our community, without whose financial support we could not provide the opportunities on offer at Borlase. Please click [here](#) to find out what your support helps to provide, and how you could make a donation.